

Town of Simsbury

754 HOPMEADOW STREET

P.O. BOX 495

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Aging and Disability Commission

AGING AND DISABILITY COMMISSION
January 21, 2003

MINUTES



Chairperson Peg Bergethon, in the Blue Room at Eno Memorial Hall, 754 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, Connecticut, called the meeting to order at 7:05PM.

Present: Peg Bergethon, Grace Comeau, Norris Christensen, Kathy Fallon, Gloria Knierim, Ed LaMontagne, John Romano (Bd. Of Selectmen liaison), Charlotte Steptoe, Eileen Umpleby, Moira Wertheimer and Lynn Veith.

Not Present: Maryann Alimi, Ricki Bergquist (staff consultant) (excused) and Gwenne Simpson (excused).

Public Audience: None

Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of the October 15, 2002 were amended to reflect that Grace Comeau, Norris Christensen, Kathy Fallon and Gwenne Simpson were excused from the October 15th meeting.

In addition, the minutes were amended to reflect that Peg sent thank you letters to Marty from Simsbury Farms and Mr. Thibeault with copies to Jerry Turner and Tom Vincent, thanking them for all of their help with Picnic in the Park.

Also, the State and Housing issues discussed should have been listed under the Disability heading in the minutes.

Finally, the Directory Project cost 40 cents per page to replace. Upon motion made by Gloria Knierim and seconded by Ed LaMontagne, the minutes of the October 25, 2002 meeting were accepted as amended.

Reports - Subcommittees/Projects

Disability Subcommittee: Ed distributed three handouts (see enclosed). The first article entitled "Family Redefined," discussed a Simsbury family who is at the forefront of a group home movement for the retarded.

The second article entitled "Celebrating 50 years of Better Lives for Children With Disabilities," discussed how individuals with mental retardation have proceeded through the past 50 years.

The third article entitled "A Kick for Everyone," discussed Simsbury High School football player Ben Mcalenney, and individual born with Down Syndrome. A discussion ensued regarding how the Aging and Disability Commission can integrate ourselves into the town and promote itself. A subcommittee consisting Ed LaMontagne, Kathy Fallon and Lynn Veith will explore options regarding how to do this. One idea presented thus far includes presenting an award to individuals in town who have contributed, supported, or promoted the success of people with disabilities.

Ed asked about whether we could have guest speakers come and speak at Commission meetings. Peg/Ed will see if a representative from FAVARH can come to the February meeting.

Charlotte reported reading an article regarding disaster plans for people with disabilities. Charlotte will look into what provisions Simsbury has for dealing with this issue. Regarding power outages, Norris noted that Northeast Utilities has a priority restoration list for individuals with medical disabilities.

Legislative Subcommittees

Federal: None.

State: None.

Housing Issues: None.

Souper Tuesday Luncheons: Peg reported that the next Souper Tuesday will be held on January 28, 2003, and that Governor's House donated the dessert. A discussion ensued regarding how difficult it is to estimate the number of people who will be attending the lunch each month, particularly in the winter months. Commission members were asked to be prepared at the next meeting to discuss alternatives to the current Souper Tuesday format.

Ways and Means: Norris reported that no major donations have been received. He will begin sending out fundraising letters, and will coordinate with Gwenne regarding Souper Tuesday fundraising.

Senior Center: None.

Old Business:

Directory Project: Peg reported that the project was completed. Peg noted what a good job FAVARH did reformatting the necessary directory pages.

Picnic in the Park: None.

Fashion Show: None.

New Business:

Nominating Committee: Gloria Knierim, on behalf of the nominating committee, proposed Peg Bergethon, chairperson; Charlotte Steptoe, vice-chairperson; and Moira Wertheimer, Clerk. Upon a motion made by Ed LaMontagne and seconded by Grace Comeau the slate was accepted as proposed.

Commission Calendar: Upon a motion made by Gloria Knierim and seconded by Moira Wertheimer, the Commission approved the Commission Calendar as proposed. Commission meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of each month during 2003-2004. There will be no Commission meetings held during July, August, and December.

Music for All Ages: Eileen reported that the event would be held on Sunday, May 4, 2003. The committee is in the process of holding organizational meetings. Lynn Veith volunteered to provide the punch.

Correspondence: Peg reported that Gloria Knierim had been reappointed to the commission, and that Frances Sarnecki requested not to be reappointed. It was noted that there are currently three vacancies on the commission.

Other: Lynn distributed a brochure detailing the Health Watch alert system (see enclosed). McLean has donated this system to the Senior Center for use in the Fitness Room. Lynn also reported that individuals still needing flu shots could get them thru McLean for a very reasonable cost. Lynn also suggested that since the flu is late in arriving to our region that individuals discuss with their physician about getting revaccinated.

Ed noted that the time was approaching for a review of Simsbury's compliance with ADA, and asked John Romano for the name of Simsbury's ADA coordinator.

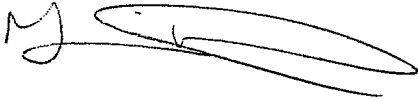
Kathy distributed a Wall Street Journal article describing some new prescription benefits websites designed to assist people in reducing medication costs (see enclosed).

Gloria followed up Rickie's idea about addressing the needs of Eno Hall. Specifically, Gloria asked if there had

been any further discussion regarding this issue. The Commission will ask Ricki at the February meeting.

Adjournment: The next meeting is on February 18th, 2003. Charlotte Steptoe made a motion to adjourn and Moira Wertheimer seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:30p.m. .

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'M. Wertheimer', written over a horizontal line.

Moira Wertheimer
Clerk

PGB/mhr
word/data/docs/Aging and Disability minutes